

DANTES' support to the Reserve components keeps growing

by LTC Hal Abbenhaus, DANTES Reserve Component Advisor

DANTES support to the Reserve components (RC) has increased tremendously over the past few years. There are many reasons for this: one is simply that RC members deserve it. We find Reservists, (members of the Army National Guard (ARNG), the Army Reserve (USAR), Air Force Reserve (USAFR), Air National Guard (ANG), Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR), Navy Reserve (USNR) and Coast Guard Reserve (USCGR)) at the forward edge of the battle area in both Iraq and Afghanistan. With the increased emphasis on using RCs comes visibility from Service and government leaders to provide additional benefits including those in the voluntary education arena.

DANTES is provided funds by DOD for programs that are generally available to all Service members. There are also funds provided by the individual RC to support their members.

ARNG, USAFR, and ANG, DANTES has renovated work areas and stations for the TA administration team. The soon to be fielded Tuition Assistance Management Program (TAMP) will increase customer support as will our

close affiliation with Defense Finance and Accounting Office, Pensacola. These efforts will directly result in quicker TA payment to Service members and enable DANTES to



Tuition Assistance (TA) programs are an excellent example of increased support. In FY02, the ARNG provided DANTES with \$9.8 million to support their federal tuition assistance program, which is in addition to the state TA programs. This number was increased to \$17.6 million for FY03 and almost \$20 million for FY04. There has been a subsequent surge in enrollments. The USAR and USAFR have provided a similar increase in TA funds over the past couple of years. Recently the USAR made the decision to pay their tuition assistance program through their own education offices. To increase support to the

support future increases in the TA programs.

DANTES examination programs have long been underused by the RCs. USAFR and ANG members collectively took about 2,500 College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) general and subject examinations in FY03. That is a small number considering the large group eligible and the benefits to Airmen who are enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force. The other components took even less advantage of these

continued on page 4, RC

Where is it?

Distance Learning	2
Certification	2
Testing	3
Counseling	4
Training	5
From the Advisor's Desk	6
Miscellaneous	7

Distance Learning

American Public University System earns regional accreditation candidacy

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), a regional accrediting body, has granted initial candidacy status to the American Public University System, whose three member institutions serve 11,000 students in all 50 states and 65 countries. More than 80 percent are members of the Armed Forces. Many others serve in national security, criminal justice, firefighting, and homeland security professions.

Accreditation at the national and regional levels can benefit students of accredited institutions by making them eligible for federal, state, and local financial aid.

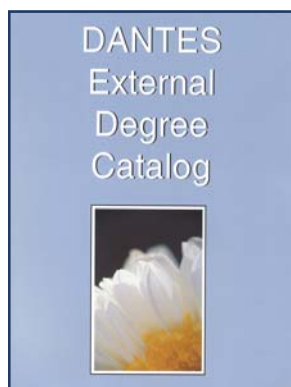
The regional candidacy status applies to the American Public University System's flagship American Military University (AMU), as well as its American Public University and American Community College distance learning institutions. The University System and its institutions are already nationally accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council.

Accreditation means the institution is evaluated on and meets rigorous quality standards. It can benefit students of accredited institutions by making them eligible for federal, state, and local financial aid. Accreditation also offers broader

acceptance of courses and degrees for transfers and admissions to other schools.

For additional information about the University System and its programs, go online at <http://www.apus.edu> or contact the enrollment management staff toll-free at 1-877-468-6268, menu option 2.

DANTES External Degree Catalog update



Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

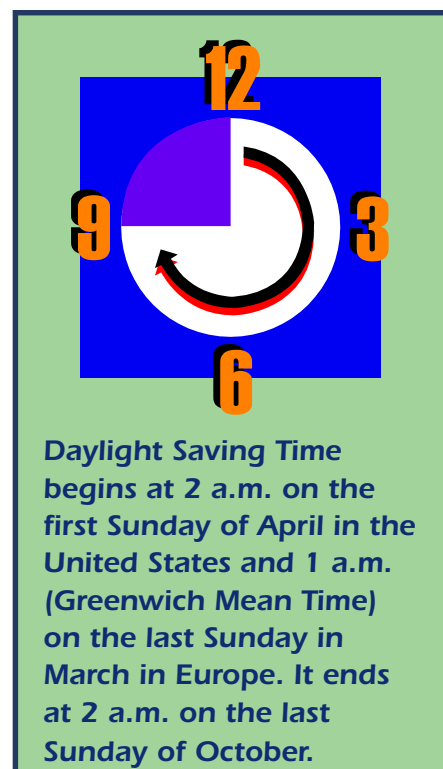
Bryant & Stratton College
1234 Abbott Road
Lackawanna, NY 14218
(716) 821-5556
Toll free: 800-836-5627
Fax: (716) 821-5518
E-mail: online@bryantstratton.edu
Internet: <http://www.bryantstratton.edu>
Associate in Business
Associate in Information Technology

Certification

Testing increases for funded FCC exams

The Executive Director of the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) recently informed us that the number of military members testing on the funded FCC exams has increased. DANTES Test Centers can administer up to three FCC tests to eligible military members in related occupations at no cost. This FCC-funded pilot program began in January 2003.

To obtain information on the funded-pilot procedures, please refer to the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Once on the Web site, click on "Certification Programs" and then "Funded Pilots." If you have questions, e-mail the DANTES Certification Program at certprog@voled.doded.mil, or call us at DSN 922-1360.



Calendar

April

2	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
5-10	GRE Subject*
17-21	Praxis*

May

4-6	ASE (Overseas)**
4, 6, 11	ASE (Conus)**

June

4	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
12-16	Praxis*
14	LSAT

August

6	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
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Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

**Deadline for ordering ASE exams is 19 March.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/03-04cal.doc

CLEP eCBT paper-based test fee for civilians announced

The College Board has recently announced the **Unfunded Civilian** test fee for the new CLEP eCBT paper-based tests. Please annotate page II-5-38 of the *Chapter 5 – CLEP eCBT Supplement* to reflect **\$120**.

This fee is effective 1 April 2004 for the 14 newly-released CLEP eCBT paper-based tests.

College Board requires payment by either certified check or money order only made out to the College Level Examination Program. Payment by personal check or by credit card payment is not accepted.

Because this fee is substantially higher than in previous years, we highly recommend that civilian examinees be referred to national test centers (colleges and universities) whenever possible. The current test fee for the CLEP eCBT computer-based tests is \$50 and even with the \$15 - \$25 registration fee, the total cost of a CLEP computer-based test is significantly less than the paper-based version. Additionally, civilian examinees receive their scores immediately after testing, except for the "English Composition with Essay." They also have access to all 35 CLEP test titles.

Remember the 180-day CLEP retest policy

The 180-day waiting period for retesting applies to all CLEP examinations regardless of whether the examinee initially took:

- ✓ One of the recently withdrawn CLEP tests,
- ✓ One of the CLEP eCBT computer-based tests at a national test center, or
- ✓ One of the new CLEP eCBT-based papers tests available at DANTES Test Centers.

Simply stated, examinees who fail a CLEP test must wait 180 calendar days before they can retest on the same test title. Whether it was paper-based or computer-based, it makes no difference. And, if an examinee fails one of the new 14 CLEP eCBT paper-based tests after 1 April 2004 and that examinee wants to retest on the paper-based version of this test, the TCO must administer an alternate form of the test. These alternate forms will be available after 1 October 2004.

Other CLEP reminders:

- ✓ CLEP test booklets are **reusable** at stocking DANTES Test Centers.
- ✓ Use the new CLEP "Green" answer sheet for all military and civilian CLEP testing.
- ✓ The new CLEP eCBT paper-based tests are 90-minute timed examinations with no timed subsections.
- ✓ Encourage examinees to answer all the questions. There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- ✓ Non-programmable, scientific calculators are permitted for the College Mathematics and College Algebra tests.

Counseling

DANTES selects new Counselor Support Manager

Ms. Sheila Nyjordet was recently selected as the Manager, Counselor Support Programs, which includes oversight on guidance materials and interest inventories, such as *Kuder*®, the *Strong Interest/Confidence Inventory*®, the *Holland Self-Directed Search*®, and CAGIS.



Sheila Nyjordet

Ms. Nyjordet formerly held the position of Manager, Reference Publications and the Military Counselor Network (MCNet) here at DANTES. She has more than 33 years of experience working in the Voluntary Education arena.

Financial aid information available online

Service members, veterans, and members of their families can now search for education scholarships that fit their particular needs at <http://military.com>. The improved Scholarship Search system contains more than 1,000 scholarships worth millions of dollars and includes details on individual scholarship eligibility, monetary amount, and deadlines. Use the new service today at <http://www.military.com/Education/ScholarShip/news-earch>.

More information on scholarships, grants, and loans can be found at

DANTES' extensive Financial Aid Web site at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/refpubs/finaid.htm. DANTES also has another Web site on Scholarships and Student Loans at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/counselorsupport/scholarships.htm.

2003-2004 edition of AIPE published this month

If your education center does not have the current *Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education (AIPE)*, which is the 2002-2003 version and gold in color, please contact the DANTES Reference Publications Manager at refpubs@voled.doded.mil.

The 2003-2004 edition of the *AIPE* is being published this month, and DANTES will be mailing them out in May/June. This publication is not online, so we still must have this important guidance tool in printed form. This book is available only to education personnel with the Department of Defense.

Quarterly reports for DISCOVER due

For Education Centers and Family Support Centers that have the DISCOVER program, quarterly reports from January through March are due by 15 April 2004. Negative reports **are** required.

You can fax the report to DSN 922-1162 or (850) 452-1162, or mail them to DANTES, Code 10B, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509-5243.

RC FROM 1

tests, with the ARNG taking only 1,100 exams and the USAR taking 350 in FY03. A large part of the problem is the geographic dispersion of RC Service members. Many members live hundreds of miles from the nearest DANTES Test Center. Help is on the way! Through the efforts of The College Board, the owners of CLEP, and our DANTES Examinations Program, all Service members will be able to access computer-based exams at college test centers across the country. Service members will be able to visit their local college, provided it is a National Test Center, to take the funded exams. The \$50 exam fee is paid by DANTES through DOD funds. Test takers must simply pay the testing college's registration fee of about \$15. When Service members complete the 90-minute computer-based exam, they receive an instant score report. CLEP exams are administered



on computer at 1,300 college test centers; 2,900 colleges grant credit based on CLEP scores.

Troops to Teachers is another outstanding program paying huge dividends by opening to the

RCs. FY02 was the first year the RCs were eligible for this program, which offers stipends and support to Service members to obtain teaching credentials and access jobs in school districts across the country, primarily in high needs areas. Although the FY03 RC enrollments were about the

continued on page 7, RC

Training

First Regional Workshop of 2004 held in Hawaii

DANTES will go to any length (almost) to help people learn about voluntary education programs and services. Demonstrating this commitment after some 10 hours in the air and 4,496 miles from Pensacola, Florida, five jet-lagged DANTES staff members conducted the first DANTES Regional Workshop in 2004. Staff members Betty Keese, Steve Beckman, Kathy Westlake,

and trends presented by Mr. David Chase, Old Dominion University, Ms. Christine Dewey, University of Maryland University College, and Mr. Franc Lopez, Northcentral University. A second panel, representing the leadership of voluntary education in Hawaii and the Pacific, gave participants a broad perspective on the latest happenings in all the Military Services. On the second day,

Military Voluntary Education in the Pacific: Q & A Moderator: Mr. Bill McAleer, DANTES Far East Advisor (not pictured)



Panel Members (L to R): Mr. Alan Matsushima, Middle/Far East Director, Navy College; ETC Paul See, ATCO and CDA, 14th CG District; Mr. Colin Hunter, Chief, Education and Training, Pacific Air Forces; Mr. Don Kurihara, Director of Education, IMA ACES, Pacific Region; Ms. Loretta Cornett-Huff, ESO, USMC; and Ms. Marsha Wellein, ESO, U.S. Army Reserve

Sandy Winborne, and MGySgt James O'Keefe touched down in Honolulu exhausted, but happy to be in the Aloha State. Bill McAleer, the DANTES Far East Advisor based in Korea, and Dr. John Gantz, Chief of the Troops to Teachers program co-located with DANTES in Pensacola, also made the trip.

The 2-day workshop kicked off on Wednesday, 25 February, at the Doubletree Alana Hotel, with MGySgt O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor, welcoming the 90 participants who represented all of the Military Services and more than 10 colleges and universities. Highlights of the first day included a session on distance learning programs, initia-

presenters from ACT, SOC, ACE, and the Hawaii Veterans Service Center joined the DANTES staff to deliver presentations on the e-DISCOVER Computer-Assisted Guidance and Information System, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, the American Council on Education's military evaluation programs, certification programs, education benefits, and other topics.

Another DANTES Regional Workshop is in the works for 2004. It will take place on 28 July at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California. For further information, contact Ace DuBose via e-mail at training@voled.doded.mil or check the training Web site at <http://>

www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm.

Training team gets new leader and manager

Ms. Betty Keese was recently selected as the Training Team Leader at DANTES, assuming duties as Program Manager for the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium, Marketing, and ACME. Prior to this, she served as DANTES Training Manager. Betty transferred to DANTES in October 2000 from HQ USAREUR ACES in Heidelberg, Germany, where she was Chief, Education Programs.



Betty Keese



Ace DuBose

Mr. H.S. "Ace" DuBose reunites with DANTES as a member of the training team. ACE left DANTES in April 1998 for a position with the Naval Financial Management Career Center. After the Center was deactivated in January 2003, he served as Assistant Director at the Navy College Center here at Sausley Field.

Ace is Training Manager for the DANTES workshops, video productions, and teleconferencing.

Appealing to the 'R' gene

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

I'm convinced-embedded in the makeup of most Service members lies a deep sense of 'responsibility.' This is demonstrated daily on a personal and professional level, through selfless sacrifice and the willingness to answer the call to Service. Communicating expectations to Service members is the most direct way to solicit responsibility and can make the difference between academic success and failure.

The below areas of responsibility combine several sources, including input from Mr. Jim Rumpler, DANTES Education Programs Manager; Ms. Sheila Nyjordet, DANTES Counselor Support; and a compilation of student responsibilities from the academic counseling booklets of both Long Island University and the College of New Jersey. They serve as helpful reminders to keep students on track.

The Responsible Student:

1. Visits the Education Center well before registration to learn how the Tuition Assistance approval process works.
2. Schedules appointments with the education counselor before the registration period and arrives on time.
3. Talks to his or her supervisor to see if there are any known unit commitments that would preclude class attendance.
4. Owns and is familiar with the school catalog and bulletin.

5. Is prepared for the counseling session- discusses long-range goals including educational goals and career aspirations (has identified questions or concerns, i.e.: How do I select a major? What courses do I take first?).
6. Knows academic requirements for enrollment and graduation, paying particular attention to the days and times of class meetings to ensure no conflicts exist.
7. Knows and meets course prerequisites and selects specific course selections with counselor's aid.
8. Discovers what kind and number of courses and credits are needed for degree completion.
9. Once the desired courses are identified, initiates the Tuition Assistance application process in plenty of time to complete it before classes begin. This includes getting the Commander's approval, if it's required.
10. Asks questions about policies, procedures, or requirements that are not understood.
11. Keeps a plan of study for his/her major and reviews it with the counselor on a regular basis.
12. Obtains, completes, and processes all necessary forms and signatures required for registration, course changes, or related affairs within specific deadlines.
13. Keeps copies of all academic and monetary records.
14. Develops an alternative plan, including other courses, in case the first choices don't go or get closed early. This also includes knowing what to do if the courses on the approved Tuition Assistance application aren't the same as the ones actually taken.
15. Consults with the counselor with concerns related to academic progress, a change in program, courses to be taken at another institution, or withdrawal.
16. Once the course(s) is/are complete, is proactive to ensure the school provides grades to the Education Center.
17. Makes final decisions and is actively responsible for his or her academic career.

I encourage you to coordinate with your command senior enlisted leadership to disseminate this information to your Service members. The introduction of these common sense areas, especially to prospective new students, can help facilitate successful navigation through the challenges of VolEd- and further develop the 'R' gene.

Do you have a Success Story?
E-mail ea@voled.doded.mil.

Longtime DANTES employee retires

Mr. Earnest (Ernie) M. Walker retired from DANTES on 1 March. He has been employed on the DANTES staff for more than 28 years. Ernie began his career with DANTES in 1975 as a WG-2 warehouse worker in the DANTES Distribution Center and retired as the supervisor of the facility. Including Ernie's service in the Air Force, he has a total of more than 48 years of federal service.

Many of Mr. Walker's coworkers, friends, and family attended the retirement luncheon and wished him well as he enters this new phase of his life. Please join all the DANTES staff in wishing Ernie well in his retirement.



Dr. Barry Cobb, DANTES Director, presents Ernie Walker with the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Mr. Vince Harmon, Head of DANTES Education Support, presents Ernie with a plaque thanking him for his 28 years of civilian service to DANTES.



RC

FROM 4

same as in FY02, roughly 800, the number of enrollees receiving money exponentially rose. The same is projected for FY04. It is interesting to note that the majority of RC members enrolling in the program are currently serving in Reserve units, have 10 good years, and have committed to serving an additional 3 years in order to obtain funds from Troops to Teachers. It is also interesting that of all funded registrants, 64 percent are from the noncommissioned officer ranks, 80 percent are male, 42 percent are minority, and 19 percent are RC members! Troops to Teachers participation should continue to increase as word gets out across the country on this fantastic program that offers Service members a chance to serve again.

These are only a few of the programs that DANTES offers in support of our RC Service members. To learn more about these programs, and others such as the DISCOVER series of guidance tests, go to <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Thanks to all of you for your continued support to our hard working citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen!

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Barry L. Cobb, Ph.D., Director

Lynn Owens, Editor

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Military Evaluations/SOC/MIVER	1732	1162	high-edu@voled.doded.mil
WW Symposium/ACME	1732	1162	training@voled.doded.mil
Training	1884	1162	training@voled.doded.mil
Counseling	1389	1588	counseling@voled.doded.mil
Reference Publications	1763	1588	refpubs@voled.doded.mil
Military Counselor Network	1763	1588	mcnet_admin@voled.doded.mil
DANTES Publications/ <i>DIB</i>	1132	1158	pubs@voled.doded.mil
Education Programs Dept.	1360	1161	
Examinations	1063	1160	exams@voled.doded.mil
Distance Learning	1085	1005	dstlearn@voled.doded.mil
Tuition Assistance	1085	1005	tahelp@voled.doded.mil
Certification	1360	1161	certprog@voled.doded.mil
Distribution Center	1082	1140	dist@voled.doded.mil